



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

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April 3, 2002

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Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute Accredited by JCAHO

Richmond—Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute (SWVMHI) in Marion has achieved full accreditation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The hospital was recently notified that the three year accreditation is effective February 15, 2002 (the date of the last survey). James S. Reinhard, M.D., Commissioner of the Department, congratulated the Director and staff of the hospital.

“Accreditation demonstrates the commitment and dedication of staff to providing high quality care and services to patients with serious mental illness. I am extremely proud of the leadership and direct care staff of the Institute, they provide compassionate, state-of-art, sometimes life-saving services to people who have significant behavioral healthcare needs.”

Gerald E. Deans, Director, SWVMHI, affirmed the Commissioner’s statement regarding his staff, “We have an excellent team. We work hard for continued accreditation and the recognition that it brings to the facility and to our community. We want to be the best and we see this as another step toward excellence. This achievement reflects the philosophy of all our staff in carrying out our mission to serve all citizens of southwestern Virginia through continuing excellence in the provision of care.”

Accreditation requires that the facility be evaluated against a set of national standards by a Joint Commission team experienced in the delivery of behavioral health care services. SWVMHI has been continuously accredited since 1987. It signifies the investment of the facility in providing quality services from the initial assessments and diagnoses of patients to the education and involvement of families. The facility is reviewed with regard to procedures and services provided for patients at the facility, as well as their connections with community programs to provide a balanced and responsive continuum of care for the individual’s return to the community.

SWVMHI is a 176 bed state mental health facility serving persons aged 13 and older. In recent years, the facility has developed a systemic approach to psychiatric rehabilitation services with the goal of enhanced hope and motivation for people with serious mental illness, in addition to psychiatric treatment. Using a centralized treatment mall concept, patients can select services that will assist in their return to the community and improve their ability to function well when they return home to family or other settings. In addition, the hospital has developed an intergenerational program which pairs patients on the Adolescent and Geriatric Units for a positive learning experience while in treatment. The facility has concentrated on providing active treatment to patients so that they can progress toward recovery and be successfully discharged to community treatment. The hospital was among the first in the state to develop the capacity for telemedicine, to reach patients in remote areas for follow-up after

discharge, as well as family visitation and service planning via interactive video conferencing.

All state mental health facilities in Virginia are accredited by JCAHO. For more information about JCAHO Accreditation see <http://www.jcaho.org>.

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